

[7 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Evasion of Tax by Foreign TV Companies

1612. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign television companies in India evade tax on presumptive profit rate of 10 per cent only; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to modify rules to ensure that they pay tax on the basis of their actual earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) the determination of taxable income is done on the basis of guidelines dated 2nd May, 1996 issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes and cannot be termed as evasion of tax.

(b) The guidelines are being examined in the normal course, and such a review is in no way based on any question of tax evasion *per se*.

Introduction of TV Channel for J and K

† 1613. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a T.V. channel called 'Kashnir' has been introduced for the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, since when this channel has been telecasting television programmes; and

(c) the names of those companies which have been given its contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.